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SKYBOUND
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THE WALKING DEAD



THE GOVERNOR SPECIAL

 KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD

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Previously:

Rick and the rest of the group have finally found shelter from the zombie hordes in a prison. But they are far from safe. When a helicopter crashes nearby, Rick, Glenn and Michonne investigate, only to find someone else has made it to the crash site first... and taken any survivors with them...

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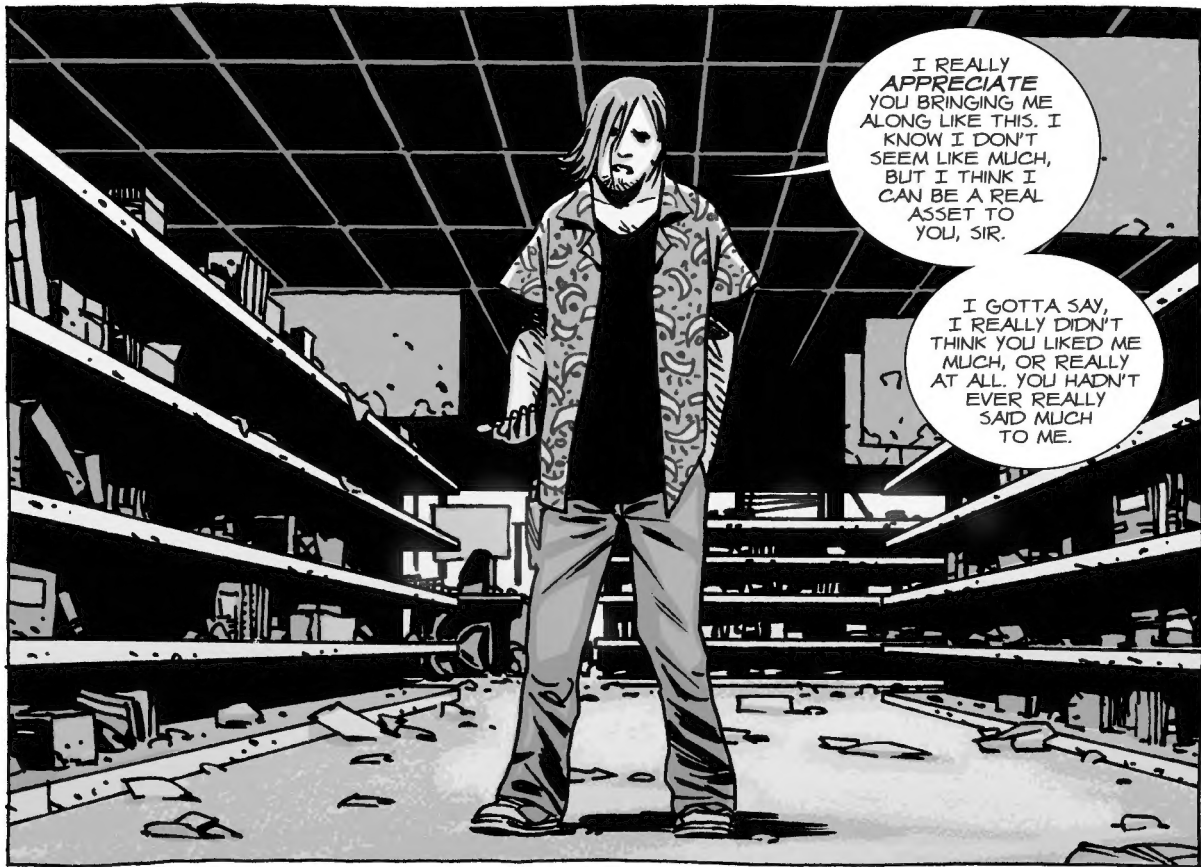
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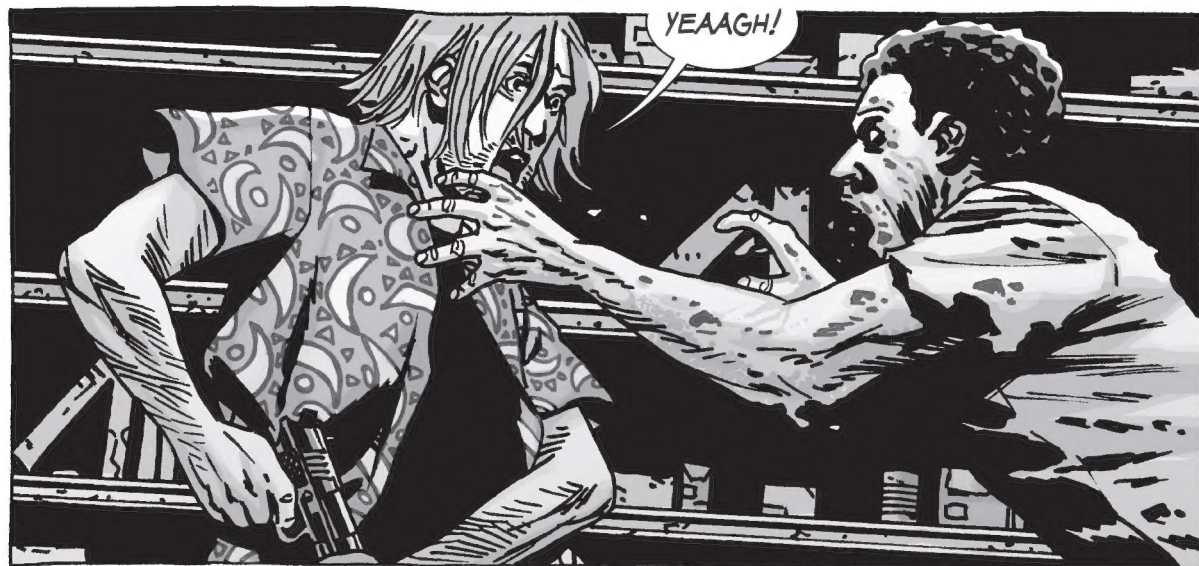
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...HOW ABOUT
YOU GIVE ME A
HAND WITH THIS
SO WE CAN
GET THE
HELL OUT OF
HERE.





THEN WHAT?



I'VE BEEN LOOKED UPON TO LEAD THIS PLACE... TO BECOME **THE GOVERNOR**, AS THESE PEOPLE HAVE STARTED CALLING ME.

IN ORDER TO DO THAT, I'VE HAD TO BECOME SOMEONE I'M **NOT**. I'VE HAD TO BE STRONG AND DECISIVE...

I'VE HAD TO BE... **BRUTAL**.



IT'S BEEN HARD FOR ME TO PUSH MYSELF INTO DOING THIS. I BELIEVE I'VE HIDDEN IT WELL...

...BUT IT'S JUST NOT IN MY NATURE TO BE SO... RESILIENT.

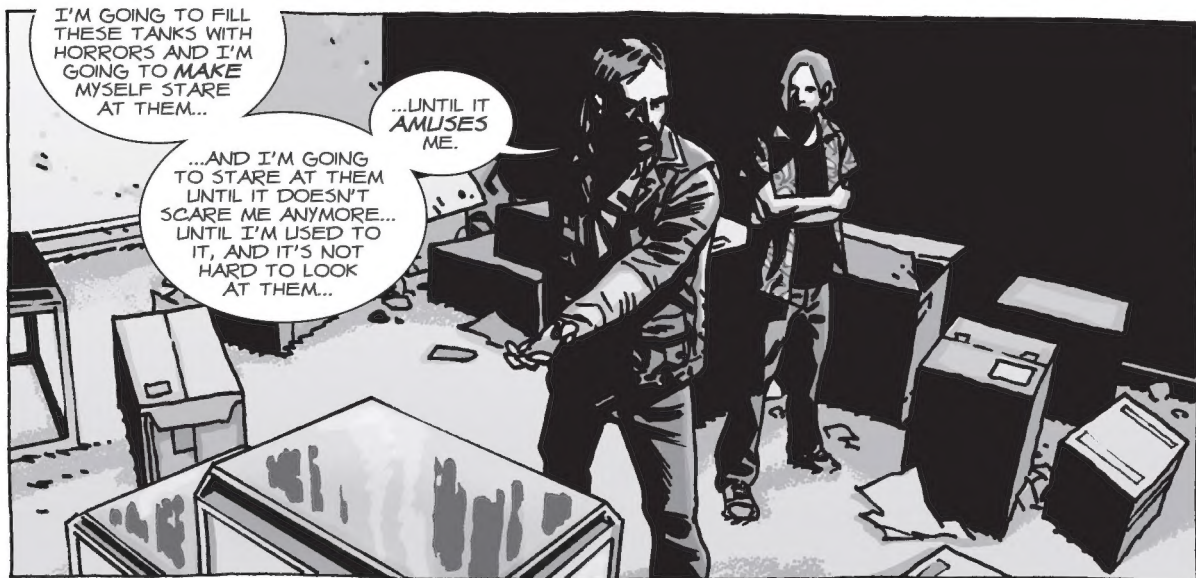


U'M... COULD HAVE FOOLED ME...



EXACTLY. I'VE GOT TO PREPARE MYSELF FOR THE HORRORS OF THIS WORLD... I'VE GOT TO TEMPER MYSELF LIKE **STEEL** AGAINST THEM.


THAT'S WHERE THESE TANKS COME IN.



I'M GOING TO FILL THESE TANKS WITH HORRORS AND I'M GOING TO **MAKE** MYSELF STARE AT THEM...


...UNTIL IT **AMUSES** ME.

...AND I'M GOING TO STARE AT THEM UNTIL IT DOESN'T SCARE ME ANYMORE... UNTIL I'M USED TO IT, AND IT'S NOT HARD TO LOOK AT THEM...




THEN
I'LL BE
READY
FOR THE
WORLD
OUTSIDE...
AND
WHATEVER
I HAVE
TO DO
TO KEEP
WOODBURY
TOGETHER.

THEN I'LL
LIVE UP
TO MY NEW
NAME.



SO, WHAT
ARE YOU
GOING TO
PUT IN THEM
THEN?



WELL, I WAS
THINKING ABOUT
SOMETHING
ALONG THE LINES
OF **SEVERED
HEADS.**

...

STARTING
WITH
YOURS.



WOW--YOU'RE
SPEECHLESS.

IT'S A SIMPLE
OFFER, LORI. I THINK
I WANT TO *BE* WITH YOU--
YOU AND RICK. I MEAN,
IT'D BE *LIKE* WE WERE
MARRIED, BUT THERE
WOULDN'T BE A
CEREMONY OR
ANYTHING.

THAT'D
BE TOO
WEIRD.



CAROL--I
JUST DO *NOT*
KNOW WHAT
TO SAY.

YOU COULD
SAY *YES*--OR
THAT YOU'LL
THINK ABOUT
IT AT THE VERY
LEAST.

YOU *CARE*
ABOUT ME, DON'T
YOU? I MEAN--I
COULDN'T HAVE
READ YOU *THIS*
WRONG, COULD
I?



CAROL, WE'RE
FRIENDS AND WE'VE
BEEN THROUGH A LOT
TOGETHER, THAT MUCH
IS TRUE. THERE HASN'T
BEEN A DAY IN THE LAST
SEVEN MONTHS THAT WE
HAVEN'T AT LEAST *SEEN*
EACH OTHER... SO WE'VE
GOTTEN CLOSE.

BUT I THINK
I'M STARTING TO
REALIZE, WITH ALL THAT'S
GOING ON--SURVIVING,
LOOKING OVER OUR
SHOULDERS ALL THE TIME,
BEING ON THE RUN... IT'S
BECOMING CLEAR TO ME
THAT WE JUST DON'T
KNOW EACH OTHER
VERY WELL.

WE
HAVEN'T
HAD *TIME* TO
GET TO KNOW
EACH OTHER...
NOT REALLY.



WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

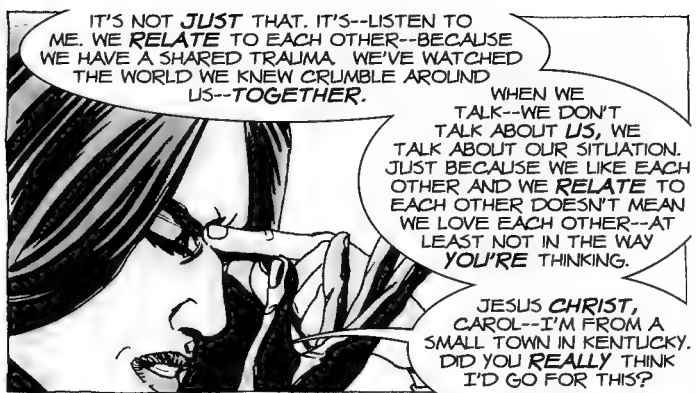


I DON'T KNOW.
DO YOU KNOW HOW
MANY SIBLINGS I HAD?
OR--OR WHERE I WENT
TO SCHOOL? DO YOU--
I DON'T KNOW--DO
YOU KNOW WHO MY
PARENTS WERE OR
WHERE I GREW
UP?

I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
WHAT YOUR
FAVORITE
FOOD IS.



HOW IMPORTANT IS MY FAVORITE FOOD IF I'M NEVER GOING TO GET A CHANCE TO EAT IT EVER AGAIN?



IT'S NOT *JUST* THAT. IT'S--LISTEN TO ME. WE *RELATE* TO EACH OTHER--BECAUSE WE HAVE A SHARED TRAUMA. WE'VE WATCHED THE WORLD WE KNEW CRUMBLE AROUND US--*TOGETHER*.

WHEN WE TALK--WE DON'T TALK ABOUT *US*, WE TALK ABOUT OUR SITUATION. JUST BECAUSE WE LIKE EACH OTHER AND WE *RELATE* TO EACH OTHER DOESN'T MEAN WE LOVE EACH OTHER--AT LEAST NOT IN THE WAY YOU'RE THINKING.

JESUS CHRIST, CAROL--I'M FROM A SMALL TOWN IN KENTUCKY. DID YOU *REALLY* THINK I'D GO FOR THIS?



HOW COULD-- WHY ARE YOU SAYING THESE THINGS, LORI?

HOW DID YOU *HONESTLY* EXPECT ME TO REACT TO THIS INSANE PROPOSAL?

HONESTLY?

HOW EXACTLY WOULD THIS WORK OUT? WHAT WOULD OUR *CHILDREN* THINK? CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW A LIVING ARRANGEMENT LIKE THIS WOULD SCAR THEM FOR LIFE?!

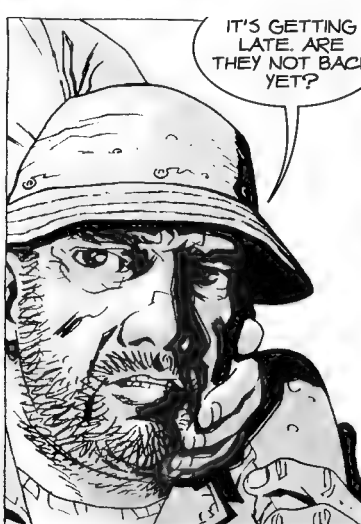
JESUS, CAROL! ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT *SOPHIA* AT ALL ANY MORE?!



HOW DARE YOU?!



CAROL-- WAIT!





HM.
GETTING
DARK.

YEAH.



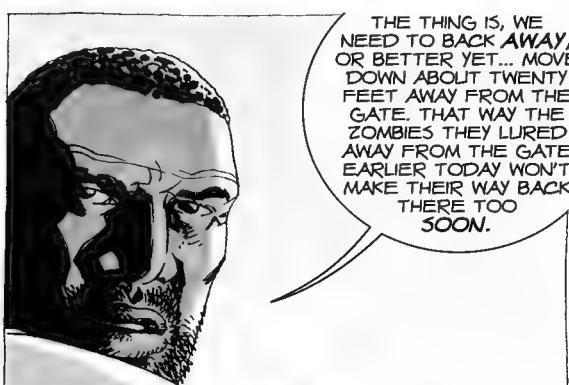
SO WHAT ARE WE
SUPPOSED TO DO
NOW? I MEAN, IT
SURE DOESN'T LOOK
LIKE THEY'RE GONNA
BE BACK SOON.
YOU FOLLOW
ME?



WELL, WE'RE GOING TO
NEED TO STAY OUT HERE
UNTIL THEY GET BACK. IF
THEY COME BACK IN THAT
CAR WE'RE GOING TO NEED
TO BE HERE TO OPEN THIS
GATE BEFORE THOSE
CORPSES PILE UP
AROUND THEM.

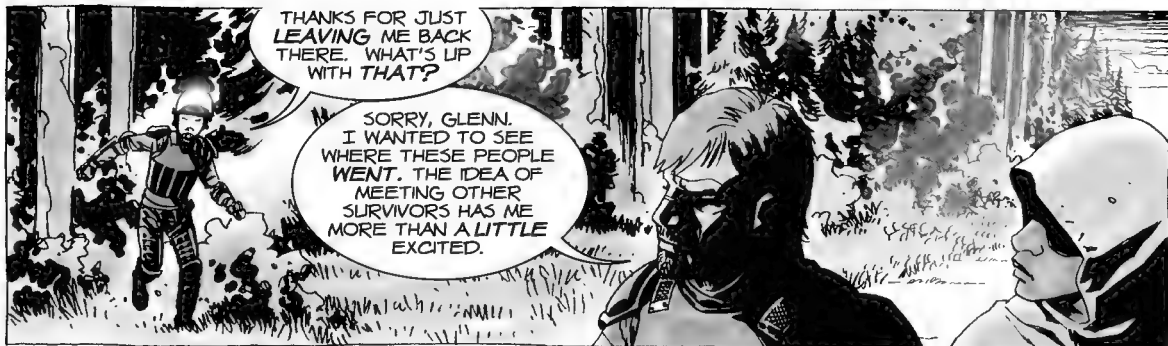


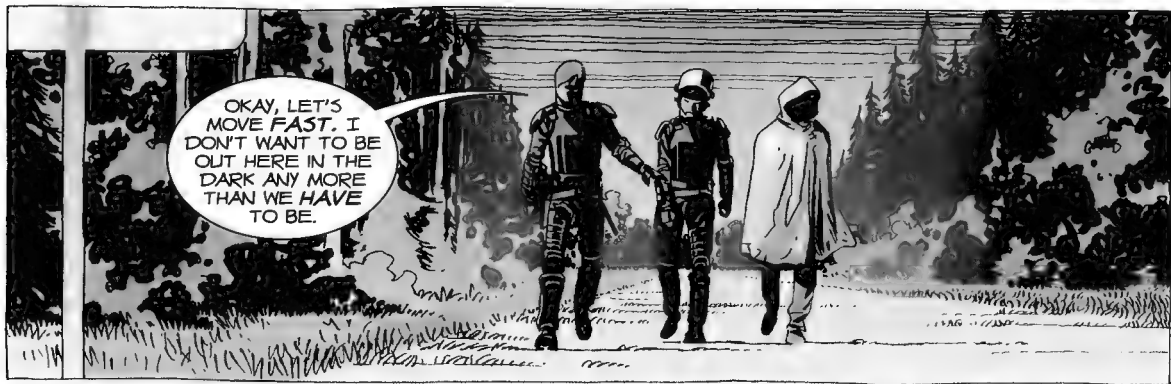
THE THING IS, WE
NEED TO BACK AWAY,
OR BETTER YET... MOVE
DOWN ABOUT TWENTY
FEET AWAY FROM THE
GATE. THAT WAY THE
ZOMBIES THEY LURED
AWAY FROM THE GATE
EARLIER TODAY WON'T
MAKE THEIR WAY BACK
THERE TOO
SOON.



OKAY.
I'LL MOVE
THE LAWN
CHAIRS
DOWN.







WHEN YOUR FATHER GETS BACK, WE'RE GOING TO START MOVING OUT INTO THE CELLS AROUND US. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE YOUR OWN ROOM. THAT'LL BE COOL, RIGHT?

YEAH.

GOODNIGHT, SON.

MOM--YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO WORRIED ABOUT DAD. YOU KNOW THAT--RIGHT?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, CARL?

EVERY TIME DAD LEAVES YOU GET **REALLY** UPSET AND WORRIED BUT **EVERY** TIME HE GOES SOMEWHERE HE ALWAYS COMES BACK FINE.

IF HE ALWAYS COMES BACK WITHOUT GETTING HURT THERE'S NO REASON TO WORRY.

I KNOW, SON. I'M NOT WORRIED.

SO--WE STAY
OUT HERE ALL
NIGHT?

IF WE HAVE TO. I
DON'T WANT THEM TO
BE TRAPPED OUT
THERE IF THEY DO
COME BACK TONIGHT.
YOU UP FOR IT? YOU
GOING TO BE ABLE TO
STAY AWAKE?

YOU THINK I'VE BEEN
AROUND THESE FUCKERS
LONG ENOUGH TO GET
COMFORTABLE ENOUGH
TO GO TO SLEEP TEN
FEET AWAY FROM
THEM?

NOT
FUCKING
LIKELY. YOU
FOLLOW
ME?

I DO. I
DO. YOU WON'T
SEE ME NODDING
OFF. THE SMELL
ALONE WILL KEEP
ME UP.

PLUS, I'D
LIKE TO BE
AWAKE AND HAVE
THE GATE OPEN
FOR THEM IF THEY
COME TEARING
DOWN THAT ROAD
AT US.

YOU WORRIED
ABOUT THEM?
MICHONNE? THE
OTHERS?

DO I WISH THEY
WERE BACK? YEAH.
ABSOLUTELY. AM I
WORRIED? NO.
NOT EVEN A
LITTLE BIT.

RICK AND
GLENN CAN HOLD
THEIR OWN. RICK
ESPECIALLY--AND HE'S
NOT ABOUT TO LET
GLENN GET HURT.
WE'VE BUTTED HEADS,
BUT I STILL RESPECT
THE MAN.

MICHONNE IS
FINE. SHE WAS OUT
THERE ALONE FOR
SO LONG... I DON'T
THINK SHE'LL HAVE
ANY TROUBLE
SPENDING A NIGHT
OUT THERE.

MY ONLY REAL
CONCERN IS WHAT'S
HOLDING THEM UP--
WHAT WAS AT THAT
HELICOPTER THAT'S
KEEPING
THEM?

FUCK IF I KNOW.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE MOVING TO A-BLOCK TOO, AREN'T YOU?

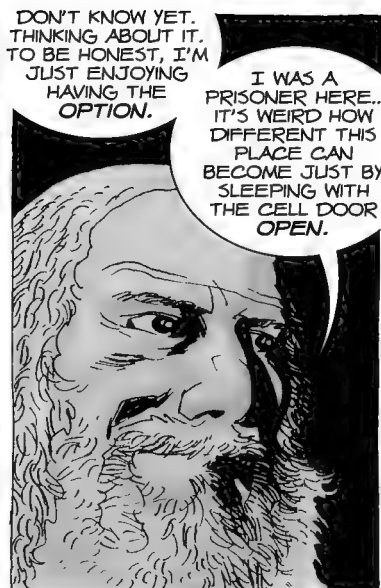


YEAH, YOU?



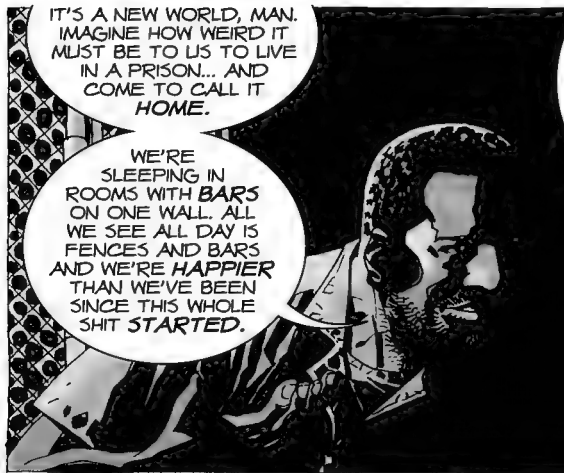
DON'T KNOW YET. THINKING ABOUT IT. TO BE HONEST, I'M JUST ENJOYING HAVING THE OPTION.

I WAS A PRISONER HERE.. IT'S WEIRD HOW DIFFERENT THIS PLACE CAN BECOME JUST BY SLEEPING WITH THE CELL DOOR OPEN.

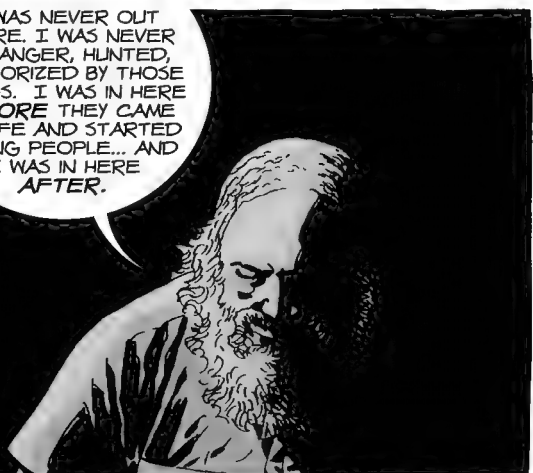


IT'S A NEW WORLD, MAN. IMAGINE HOW WEIRD IT MUST BE TO US TO LIVE IN A PRISON... AND COME TO CALL IT HOME.

WE'RE SLEEPING IN ROOMS WITH BARS ON ONE WALL. ALL WE SEE ALL DAY IS FENCES AND BARS AND WE'RE HAPPIER THAN WE'VE BEEN SINCE THIS WHOLE SHIT STARTED.



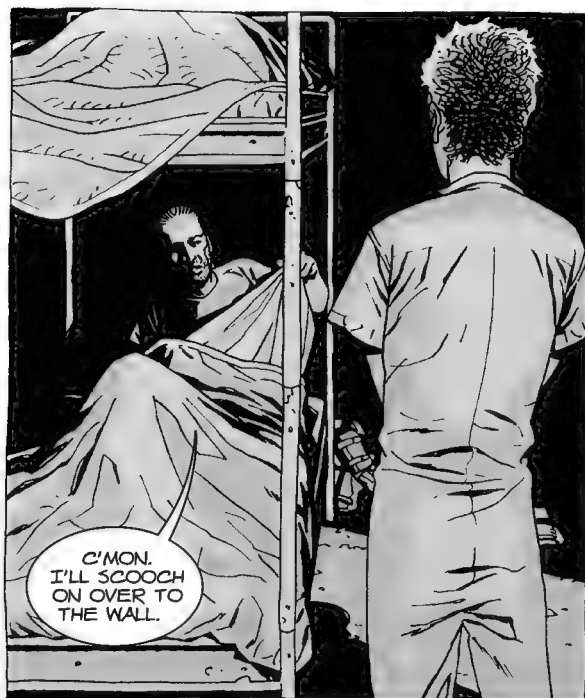
I WAS NEVER OUT THERE. I WAS NEVER IN DANGER, HUNTED, TERRORIZED BY THOSE THINGS. I WAS IN HERE BEFORE THEY CAME TO LIFE AND STARTED KILLING PEOPLE... AND I WAS IN HERE AFTER.



SO YEAH--IT'S A NEW WORLD, BUT GOD HELP ME...

I LIKE THIS WORLD BETTER.





WE SEEM TO BE
OKAY SO FAR--
MAYBE THERE JUST
AREN'T ANY
ROAMERS IN THIS
AREA.

THAT'D
BE OUR
FIRST BIT
OF LUCK
TODAY.

THEY'RE
THERE.



WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?
I DON'T
HEAR ANY.



YOU'RE NOT
LISTENING HARD
ENOUGH. THEY'RE
THERE--AT LEAST
A DOZEN OF THEM
AND MORE EVERY
MINUTE.



YOU
SURE?



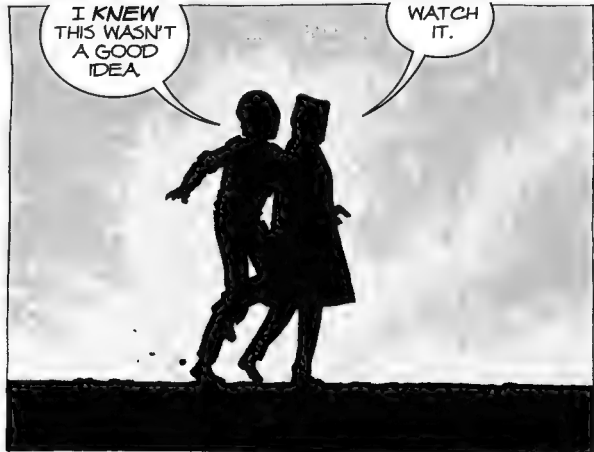
THAT'S JUST HOW IT
WORKS OUT IN THE OPEN.
WE'RE PASSING THEM,
WALKING RIGHT BY THEM
WITHOUT NOTICING--BUT
THEY'RE NOTICING--
AND FOLLOWING.

THEY CAN'T
WALK AS FAST
AS US, SO THE
LONGER WE WALK,
THE FURTHER AWAY
THEY'LL BE... BUT
THEY'RE STILL
AFTER US.

WHEN WE
GET TO WHEREVER
IT IS WE'RE GOING,
WHEN WE STOP IT'S
JUST A MATTER OF
TIME BEFORE THEY
CATCH UP TO US. AND
THE LONGER OUR
TRIP... THE MORE
THERE WILL
BE.



I KNEW
THIS WASN'T
A GOOD
IDEA.



WATCH
IT.



HEY.



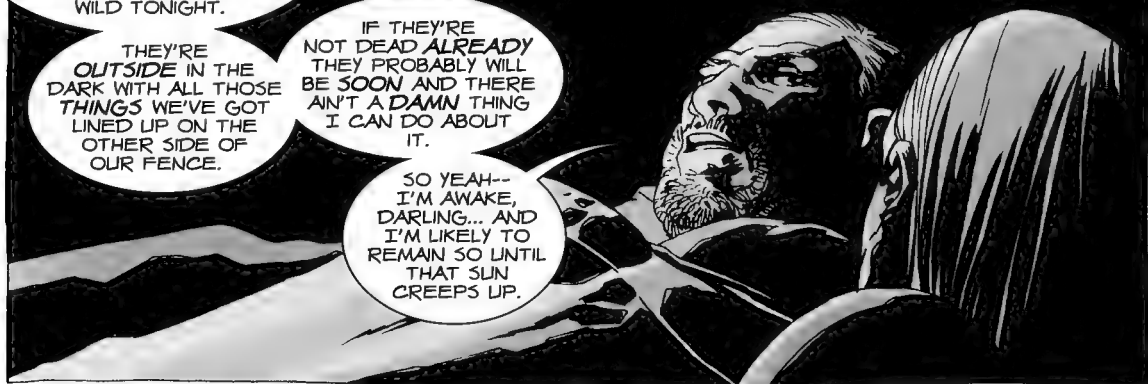
DALE?
ARE YOU
AWAKE?

ANDREA, HONEY. THREE OF
THE ONLY PEOPLE I *KNOW*
TO BE ALIVE IN THIS WORLD
ARE OUT THERE IN THE
WILD TONIGHT.

THEY'RE
OUTSIDE IN THE
DARK WITH ALL THOSE
THINGS WE'VE GOT
LINED UP ON THE
OTHER SIDE OF
OUR FENCE.

IF THEY'RE
NOT DEAD *ALREADY*
THEY PROBABLY WILL
BE *SOON* AND THERE
AIN'T A *DAMN* THING
I CAN DO ABOUT
IT.

SO YEAH--
I'M AWAKE,
DARLING... AND
I'M LIKELY TO
REMAIN SO UNTIL
THAT SUN
CREEPS UP.



SO
YOU'RE
WORRIED
ABOUT
THEM?

YOU BETTER BE
THANKFUL YOU'RE
SO GODDAMN
CUTE.

I'M
VERY
WORRIED
ABOUT
THEM.



ME TOO.
I DOUBT I'LL
BE GETTING A
LOT OF SLEEP
TONIGHT
EITHER.





WELL, THAT'S NO GOOD. WE'RE PARENTS, NOW. WE GOTTA BE BRIGHT-EYED AND BUSHY-TAILED TOMORROW FOR THE LITTLE ONES.

ONE OF US IS GOING TO NEED TO GET SOME SLEEP.



SHIT. THE TWINS. I ALMOST FORGOT.

CHRIST.



THAT'S RIGHT. WE'RE PARENTS NOW. WE HAVE TO BE RESPONSIBLE.



YOU THINK THEY'RE OKAY? SLEEPING BY THEMSELVES I MEAN?

THOSE BOYS ARE TOUGHER THAN WE THINK. KIDS, Y'KNOW, THEY CAN HANDLE A LOT MORE THAN WE GIVE THEM CREDIT FOR. MOST OF THEM ANYWAY.

THEY ASKED TO SLEEP IN THEIR OWN CELL AND SO WE LET THEM. THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT. THEY DON'T NEED TO BE TOLD TO DO THINGS THEY DON'T WANT TO DO JUST YET. WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME FOR THAT SOON ENOUGH.

WE GOT THEM RIGHT NEXT DOOR-- GOT THE DOOR CLOSED TIGHT AND EVERYTHING. THEY'LL BE FINE UNTIL MORNING.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE DOING ENOUGH WORRYING FOR THE BOTH OF US. SO, IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO PUT THIS BUSINESS OUT OF MY HEAD AND GET SOME SLEEP.

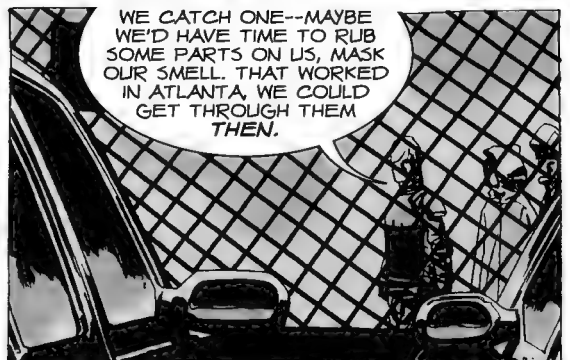
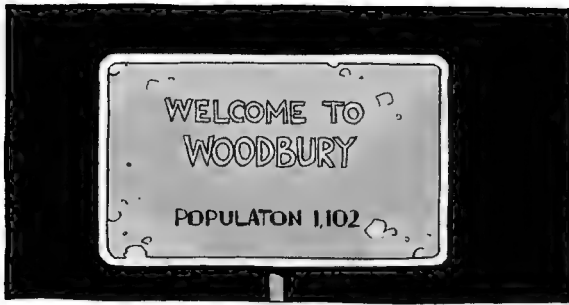
SOMEHOW.

SOMEBODY'S GOING TO HAVE TO POUR THAT CEREAL TOMORROW MORNING.



I LOVE YOU, DALE. GOOD-NIGHT.

YOU TOO, KIDDO.







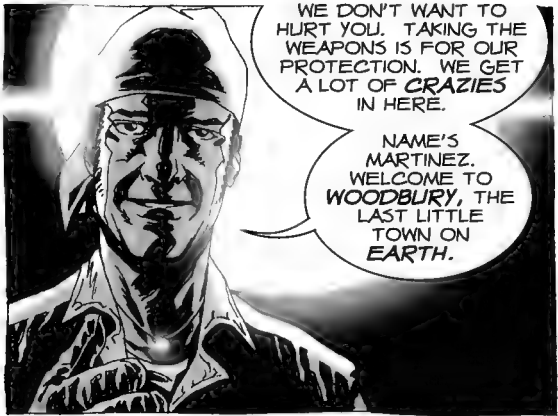
GET THEIR WEAPONS, WES-- GUNS, KNIVES, **ALL** OF THEM. MAKE SURE THEY'RE CLEAN BEFORE THEY TAKE ANOTHER STEP INSIDE.

RIGHT, BOSS.

LET 'EM, MICHONNE-- DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WE'VE GOT MUCH OF A CHOICE.

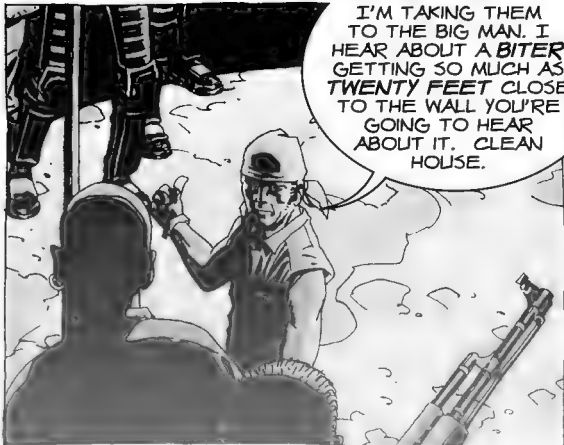


WHY ARE YOU TAKING OUR WEAPONS? WE JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE IN THE HELICOPTER. YOU **SAVED** THEM RIGHT?



WE DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU. TAKING THE WEAPONS IS FOR OUR PROTECTION. WE GET A LOT OF **CRAZIES** IN HERE.

NAME'S MARTINEZ. WELCOME TO **WOODBURY**, THE LAST LITTLE TOWN ON EARTH.



I'M TAKING THEM TO THE BIG MAN. I HEAR ABOUT A **BITER** GETTING SO MUCH AS **TWENTY FEET** CLOSE TO THE WALL YOU'RE GOING TO HEAR ABOUT IT. CLEAN HOUSE.

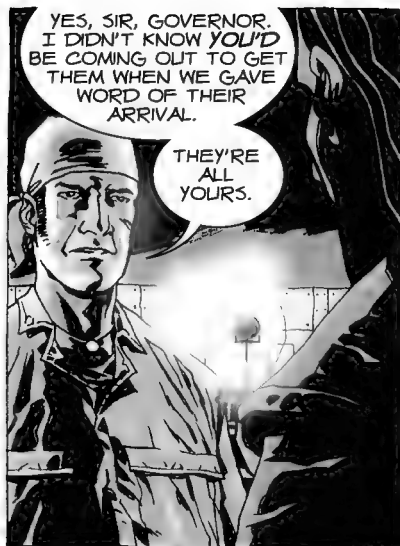


YOU GUYS CAN FOLLOW ME.



I CAN TAKE IT FROM HERE, MARTINEZ. I'D LIKE TO ESCORT OUR GUESTS MYSELF.

I NEED YOU AT THE WALL, CLEANING OFF ALL THE BITERS THEY NO DOUBT DRUG WITH THEM.



YES, SIR, GOVERNOR. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D BE COMING OUT TO GET THEM WHEN WE GAVE WORD OF THEIR ARRIVAL.

THEY'RE ALL YOURS.



FOLLOW ME, FOLKS. I'LL GIVE YOU THE NICKEL TOUR.



GOVERNOR?

I WEAR THE TITLE WITH A SMILE. IT'S MORE OF A JOKE THAN ANYTHING ELSE. BUT *FUCK IT*, WHO'S OUT THERE TO SAY OTHERWISE? I ALMOST WENT WITH PRESIDENT--BUT I THOUGHT IT SOUNDED TOO SILLY.

ALWAYS DID WANT TO BE THE GOVERNOR.



SAW MY CHANCE AND I TOOK IT.

SINCE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S DOING THE TALKING FOR NOW--WHAT'S YOUR STORY, STRANGER?

NO STORY. WE'VE BEEN TRAVELING SINCE THE TURN. SAW THE HELICOPTER AND WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO INVESTIGATE--JUST NOT CLOSER THAN *YOU*, RIGHT?

BELIEVE I WAS TALKING TO THE MAN, HERE, MA'AM. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.

THAT'S OUR STORY. SHIT HIT THE FAN. WE'VE BEEN WALKING EVER SINCE. WHAT ABOUT *YOU*? YOU SEEM TO BE HOLDING THIS PLACE DOWN PRETTY GOOD.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE HERE? A COUPLE OF **BLOCKS** FENCED OFF? THAT'S NICE.

FOUR BLOCKS, ACTUALLY. WE'RE WORKING ON THE FENCES FOR THE FIFTH. WE GOT ABOUT FORTY PEOPLE HERE. SEEMED LIKE WE WERE GETTING MORE EVERY DAY AT FIRST--THEN LESS--THEN **NOTHING**. YOU'RE THE FIRST IN A MONTH. HARD WINTER, I GUESS.

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY WE **LOST**? THE GOVERNMENT I MEAN--THE WAR AGAINST THE BITERS. WE DID **LOSE**, Y'KNOW.

PRESIDENT SENDS OUT THE NATIONAL GUARD TO SECURE THE CITIES, MAKE 'EM SAFE ZONES FOR ALL US NORMAL FOLK TO FLOCK TO. I'M SURE YOU REMEMBER THAT PART OF THE STORY.

MAIN PROBLEM THERE IS THE AVERAGE WEEKEND WARRIOR WAS WORRIED MORE ABOUT *HIS* WIFE AND KID THAN HE WAS ABOUT DRIVING HIS ASS TO **ATLANTA** TO FIGHT OFF **CORPSES**.

WHOLE GUARD STATION ABOUT A MILE AWAY--**COMPLETELY ABANDONED**. ALL KINDA SUPPLIES LEFT INSIDE. WE BEEN MAKING GOOD USE OF IT. NIGHT VISION GOGGLES, SNIPER RIFLES, AMMO, YOU SEEN IT IN ACTION. THIS PLACE WOULDN'T BE **SHIT** WITHOUT IT.

YOU SOUND LUCKY. WHERE IS IT YOU'RE TAKING US? WE'RE WALKING TOWARD THE **LIGHT**. WHAT IS THAT? BASEBALL GAME?

WELL, STRANGER. IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT THE **ONLY** ONES LUCKY AROUND HERE. YOU SHOWED UP ON THE PERFECT NIGHT.

THERE'S A **FIGHT** TONIGHT.



CURIOUS ABOUT ALL THE ELECTRICITY?

FUCKING REDNECKS. THEY LOVED THEIR DIRT TRACK RACING SO DAMN MUCH THEY HAD A BIG ASS GENERATOR INSTALLED. THAT WAY THEIR NIGHT RACES WOULDN'T BE INTERRUPTED BY A POWER FAILURE.

FIGHTS ARE MOSTLY DURING THE DAY. WE ONLY SAVE THE GENERATOR FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS.

C'MON-- I'VE GOT A PRIVATE ROOM AT THE TOP. BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE.

SO WHAT? YOU MAKE THE ZOMBIES FIGHT EACH OTHER?

I'M SENSING A BIT OF DISAPPROVAL, STRANGER. IN CASE YOU AN'T NOTICED, THE CABLE'S OUT. AN'T A WHOLE LOT IN THE WAY OF ENTERTAINMENT TO BE HAD.

PEOPLE GET RESTLESS WITHOUT ENTERTAINMENT.

ZOMBIES? NO, A BITER FIGHT AIN'T NO KIND OF ENTERTAINMENT. WE GOT REAL LIVE PEOPLE GOING INTO THE CIRCLE. TWO ENTER--THEY BEAT THE HELL OUT OF EACH OTHER-- PUT ON A GOOD SHOW. BITERS ARE JUST EXTRA MOTIVATION.

PRIVATE

YOU FENCE OFF THIS AREA--MAKE IT SAFE AND THEN CART IN A PILE OF ROAMERS FOR ENTERTAINMENT. NOT VERY SAFE, GOVERNOR.

YOU SERIOUS?

AT FIRST, YEAH-- WE HAD A FEW... ACCIDENTS. ONCE WE STARTED FEEDING THEM, THOUGH... THEY GOT PRETTY DOCILE. NOT MUCH OF A THREAT NOW.

BRUCE, CLOSE THAT DOOR, PLEASE.

WAIT-- YOU'RE FEEDING THEM? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU FEEDING THEM?

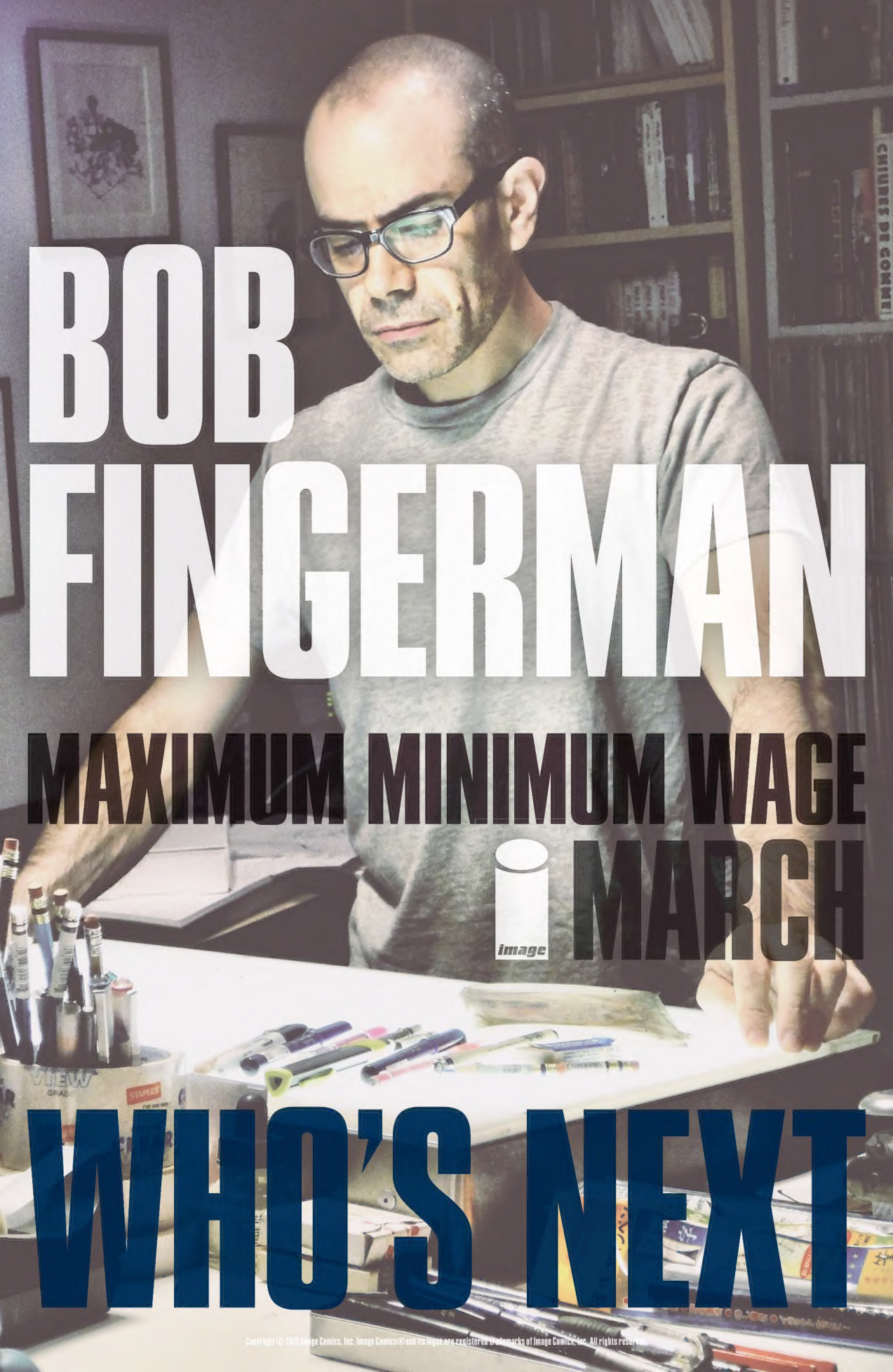


WELL,
STRANGER.

WE'RE
FEEDING THEM
STRANGERS.

the story continues
monthly in

**THE WALKING
DEAD**



BOB FINGERMAN

MAXIMUM MINIMUM WAGE



MARCH

WHO'S NEXT